MINUTES

OF SOME LATE

CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN THE

REV. THOMAS COKE, L. L. D.

AND OTHERS.

DUBLIN:

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXXVI.

MINUTES, &c.

DUBLIN, Friday, July 7th, 1786.

QUEST. 1. WHAT Preachers are *admitted* this Year?

ANSW. William Hammet, James M'Donald.

Q. 2. Who *remain on trial?*

A. John Dinnen, Thomas Verner.

Q. 3. Who are *admitted on trial?*

A. Samuel Bates, Thomas Owens, David Gordon, Francis Frazier, Thomas Seaward, John Harper, John Gillis, Samuel Moorhead, John Grace, William Cowen, Daniel Graham.

Q. 4. Who have *died* this Year?

A. Chriſtopher Peacock, a precious, devoted Labourer, highly favoured of God and Man: and Andrew Coleman, a ſenſible, promiſing Youth, likely, if he had lived, to have been a burning and a ſhining light.

Q. 5. Are there any Objections to any of our Preachers?

A. They were examined one by one.

Q. 6. Who were laid aſide?

A. George Dice, Thomas Holliday.

Q. 7. How are the Preachers *ſtationed* this year?

A. As follows:

1. *Dublin*,

1. *Dublin*,	James Rogers, Joſhua Kighley.
2. *Waterford*,	George Brown, David Gordon.
3. *Cork*,	Jonathan Brown, Matthias Joyce, John Dinnen.
4. *Limerick*,	Daniel Jackſon, Thomas Seaward.
5. *Caſtlebar*,	Nehemiah Price, William M‘ Cornock.
6. *Athlone*,	Lawrence Kane, John Miller, John Mealy *ſupernumerary*.
7. *Longford*,	Thomas Davies, James M‘Donald, John Bredin *Invalid*.
8. *Sligo*,	James Jordan, Francis Frazier.
9. *Ballyconnell*,	Joſeph Armſtrong, James Rennick, Thomas Owens.
10. *Clones*,	A Preacher from England, Thomas Hetherington, John Harper.
11. *Inniſkillen*,	Samuel Mitchell, Thomas Verner, John Gillis.
12. *Ballyſhannon*,	Thomas Barbor, Richard Condy.
13. *Omagh*,	John Price, Samuel Moorhead.
14. *Charlemount*,	Hugh Moor, Guſtavus Armſtrong.
15. *Newry*,	John Kerr, Robert Bridge.
16. *Londonderry*,	John Leech, Walter Griffith.

17. *Coleraine*, A Preacher from England, William Weſt, William Cowen.

18. *Belfaſt*, Robert Armſtrong, John Howe, John Grace.

19. *Liſburn*, A Preacher from England, Robert Lindſay, Samuel Bates.

Q. 8. How many Preachers' Wives are there?

A. Nine.

Q. 9. How many of theſe are provided for by the Circuits?

A. Five; Siſter Jackſon, Price, George Brown, Joyce, and Dinnen.

Q. 10. How are the reſt provided for?

A. By the Engliſh Conference.

Q. 11. What does each Circuit contribute for the Wives?

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
A. Dublin, ——	14	0	0
Waterford, —	2	0	0
Cork and Bandon,	6	0	0
Limerick, —	3	0	0
Caſtlebar, —	2	0	0
Athlone, —	2	0	0
Longford —	6	0	0
Sligo, —	1	0	0
Ballyconnell, —	1	0	0
Clones, —	6	0	0
Inniſkillen, —	2	0	0
New-town Stewart,	1	0	0
Ballyſhannon, —	1	0	0
Charlemount, —	1	10	0
Newry, —	1	10	0
Londonderry, —	1	0	0
Coleraine, —	2	0	0

Belfaſt,

Belfaſt, —	2	0 0
Liſburn, —	5	0 0
In all,	60	0 0

N. B. This is Engliſh Money.

Q. 12. What Numbers are in the Societies?

A.

Dublin,	900
Waterford,	300
Cork,	800
Limerick,	266
Caſtlebar,	303
Athlone,	600
Sligo,	391
Ballyconnell,	636
Clones,	929
Inniſkillen,	1400
Charlemount,	1200
Liſleen,	950
Londonderry,	700
Belfaſt,	420
Liſburn,	550
In all,	10345

Q. 13. What is contributed to the Preachers' Fund?

A. £. 53 6 10.

Q. 14. What is contributed to the yearly Collection?

A. £. 67 0 0.

Q. 15. How was this expended?

A. In ſupplying the wants and deficiencies of the Preachers, as far as it would go.

Q. 16. What is the Kingſwood-Collection?

A. £. 38 11 3.

Q. 17 What is the Collection for the Foreign Miſſions?

A. £. 20 5 6.

Q. 18. What Houſes are allowed to be built?

A. Kinſale, Caſtlebar, Aughrim, Cloughagady, Ballynamallard, Killydart, Armagh, Dungannon, and Portaferry.

Q. 19. Does the *General Deed* require any Alteration in the Mode of ſettling our Preaching-houſes?

A. None, except the Inſertion of the Phraſe, "The Conference of the People called Methodiſts, as eſtabliſhed by a Deed-Poll of the ſaid "John Weſley, under his Hand and Seal, bearing date the 28th Day of February, in the "Year 1784, and enrolled in his Majeſty's "High Court of Chancery in London, and no "others," Inſtead of the Phraſe, "The Conference of the People called Methodiſts in "London, Briſtol or Leeds, and no others."

Q. 20. Are there any Directions to be given concerning the Appointment of Stewards?

A. The Conference intreat Mr. Weſley by himſelf or his Delegate, to appoint the general Steward of every Circuit, and all the Stewards of the particular Societies, annually in the courſe of his Viſitation.

Q. 21. What can be done, in order ſtill further to carry on the preſent glorious Revival of the Work of God?

A. 1. Let the Preachers fervently urge the Leaders, and even the private Believers, to go into the Houſes of the Ungodly, and wherever they are ſuffered, to pray earneſtly with them and for them, and the World will be ſet on Fire.

2. Let the Preachers meet the Claſſes in the Country

Country-places, as often as the circumſtances of Things will admit of it.

3. Let the Aſſiſtants in planning the Duties of the Lord's Day, conſider only the Numbers of the Congregations and the Societies, and not be any wiſe influenced by the Preaching-houſes: rather than which, let the Preaching-houſes be given to the Batts and to the Moles.

Q. 24. Some Preachers have been brought into Difficulties by raiſing Money for Preaching-Houſes on their own Notes of Hand. What can be done to prevent this in future?

A. Let no Travelling-Preacher become a Surety on any ſuch Occaſion.

Q. 25. We fear that Miſtakes have been ſometimes made in the Annual Returns of the Numbers of our Societies. How ſhall theſe be prevented?

A. Let the Aſſiſtants return only the Members to whom they have given Society-Tickets, and not thoſe who are only on Trial.

Q. 26. Preachers who have been expelled for their evil Conduct, have notwithſtanding been ſuffered without the conſent of Mr. Weſley or the Conference, to preach in our Circuits. How ſhall this great Evil be remedied?

A. Let every Aſſiſtant as he would not incur the diſpleaſure of the Conference, oppoſe to the utmoſt every ſuch inſtance. And let him withdraw the Preaching from the Houſe of any Member of our Society, who after Warning given, will permit any Perſon under the Sentence of Expulſion to preach under his Roof.

Q. 27. What further Direction can be given, to ſecure the proper Settlement of our Preaching-Houſes?

A. Let no Affiſtant make, or ſuffer to be made, in his reſpective Circuit, a Collection for any Preaching-Houſe, till every Step be previouſly taken to ſecure it on the Conference Plan by a Truſt-Deed, a Bond, or ſufficient Articles of Agreement.

Q. 28. Is it lawful to ſend, deliver, or carry home Work or Goods on the Sabbath-Day?

A. It is not lawful: it is contrary to the Laws of God, and therefore muſt not be ſuffered in our Societies.

Q. 29. Out of what Fund are the Carriage of the Goods of the Preachers, their Letters on the Buſineſs of the Circuits, and the ſhoeing of their Horſes, to be diſcharged?

A. The General Stewards are to defray theſe Expences out of the public Funds of their reſpective Circuits, as far as they are able.

Whereas various Letters, ſome anonymous entitled *Free Thoughts*, &c. and others ſigned *Michael Moorhouſe*, have been circulated with great Diligence to the great Diſturbance of our Societies, we do unanimouſly bear this public Teſtimony of our Diſapprobation of theſe Proceedings, and eſteem the Authors of them as Enemies to our Connection, and Diſturbers of the Peace of Zion, and of that ſpiritual Union which is ſo neceſſary for the Preſervation and Increaſe of the Work of God.

Q. 30. When ſhall the next Conference be held?

A. The firſt Friday in next July. 6.

FINIS.